



St. Mark School

September 2007



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C. GALE

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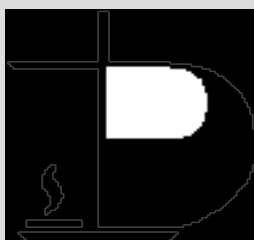
ST MARK SCHOOL
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A Prayer in Praise of our Children

Lord, you have made these children as varied as the flowers of a garden.

You have blessed each one uniquely and each fragile, growing child is infinitely precious in your sight.

You have trusted us to nurture them and blessed us with the joy of seeing them grow.

May we always walk in your light and provide them with the love and care you give to us.

Amen

Principal's Message

Welcome back to a new academic year at St. Mark Catholic Elementary School. I hope you had a restful and relaxing summer. I would like to welcome our new students and their families. I also wish to extend a sincere welcome to the following new staff members:

Mrs. Godfrey (ERW), Mrs. Eschli (ERW), Mr. Young FSL Grades 4-5, Ms. McNeilly Grade 6 and welcome back to Ms. Nevins, Grade 2

This newsletter is the first of a monthly newsletters that will give us an opportunity to let you know what is happening here at St. Mark School. Together our staff, parents and students make St. Mark a very special school. We have high standards and expectations, one that adheres to Catholic philosophy.

Principal's Message Cont'd



Should you have a concern about your child, please do not hesitate to share it with us. Early and ongoing information sharing can help to clarify and often alleviate concerns quickly. Begin by contacting the classroom teacher who is usually the one most able to deal effectively with your child's learning and behavior. A time should be scheduled for you to speak to the teacher either by telephone or meeting. Should you require further assistance please contact the office.

On behalf of the St. Mark staff, I extend best wishes for another exciting and successful school year. I am confident that we will provide our students with the best possible catholic education.

*God Bless,
Connie Gale*

John Kostoff Named New Director for Dufferin-Peel CDSB

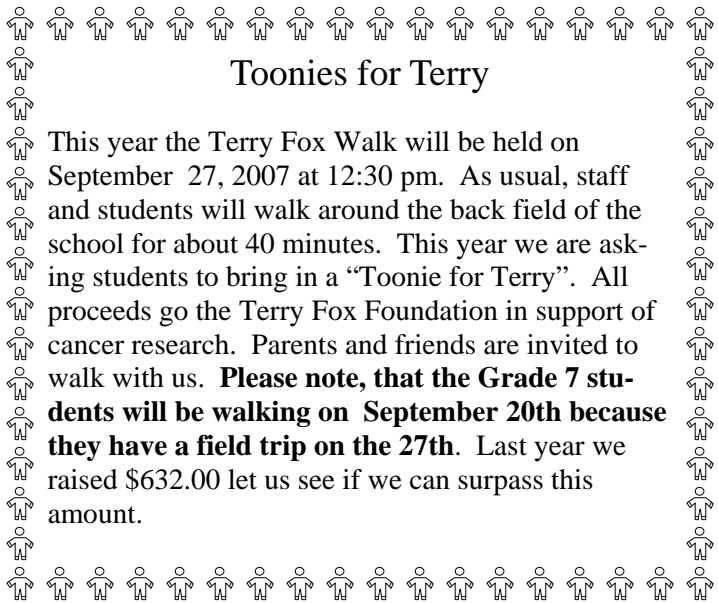
The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board has announced the appointment of John Kostoff as its new Director of Education and Secretary to the Board, effective September 1, 2007. John Kostoff succeeds retiring Michael Bator as director at Dufferin-Peel. We congratulate Mr. Kostoff and look forward to working with him. We wish Michael Bator all the best in his retirement and express our thanks for his many contributions and dedication to Dufferin-Peel CDSB.

St. Mark Assemblies

Please join us for the first Assembly of the Year on Sept. 21 at 9:00 a.m. for JK- 3, and at 10:15 for grades 4-8. During the Grades 4-8 assembly, Student Council elections will take place. The first Assembly is on the 21st because of the PA Day on Sept. 28, 2007. The rest of the year we will continue our tradition of holding them on the last Friday of the month.



Toonies for Terry



This year the Terry Fox Walk will be held on September 27, 2007 at 12:30 pm. As usual, staff and students will walk around the back field of the school for about 40 minutes. This year we are asking students to bring in a "Toonie for Terry". All proceeds go the Terry Fox Foundation in support of cancer research. Parents and friends are invited to walk with us. **Please note, that the Grade 7 students will be walking on September 20th because they have a field trip on the 27th.** Last year we raised \$632.00 let us see if we can surpass this amount.

Virtues Initiative

Catholic school education provides us with the opportunity to integrate virtue formation into all areas of our school life within the context of our faith. Under the direction of the Board, we will be introducing a new virtues program this year. Each month the entire school will focus on a different virtue. Below you will find a list of the virtues focus on each month.

<i>September</i>	<i>Faith</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>Respect</i>
<i>October</i>	<i>Empathy</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>Kindness</i>
<i>November</i>	<i>Conscience</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>Love</i>
<i>December</i>	<i>Hope</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Acceptance</i>
<i>January</i>	<i>Self Control</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>Fairness</i>

SCHOOL HOURS:

Our school hours remain the same as in previous years.

8:30 am	Start Time
11:30 am-12:30 pm	Lunch
3:00 pm	End Time

Staff are on duty for 15 minutes before the start of the school day and throughout the entire noon hour. You may safely leave your child in the school yard upon arrival in the morning or upon returning to the school after lunch.

VISITORS TO SCHOOL

Please remember that to other children you are a stranger. When entering the school, please report to the office. Any individuals wandering the school without appropriate identification will be asked to go to the office. Please help us to monitor a safe and welcoming environment for your children. **When you come to the school, please report to the office, sign in, and take a tag. Prior to leaving, sign out and return your visitor's tag.** As well, parents are asked to bid your children farewell from beyond the play

ground. Only students and staff are to be in the schoolyard. Again, this is to ensure the safety of your children and your attention to this is most appreciated.

Please be reminded that dogs **are not permitted** in the schoolyard area at any time. The excitement of the children or the bell ringing can frighten dogs.

SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

ARE YOU GETTING THE ANSWERING MACHINE?

We are requesting your assistance. This system, which allows parents to call in student absenteeism 24 hours a day, supports our Safe Arrival Program. If both lines into the school are busy, your call is automatically routed to the School Answering System. The office staff picks up the phone messages on a regular basis and will relay messages to staff members. We thank all parents/guardians who continue to call the school when their children are absent. Your support ensures that our Safe Arrival Program works efficiently to ensure the safety of our students. When we do not receive your call, we are concerned about your child. We then call home, your workplace or an emergency contact number. Please let us know if your telephone numbers change.

Please help us to save valuable time and ensure the safety of your child by calling in all absences.

Our Attendance Verification Phone number is (905)820-9477

Students who are late for school are required to report to the office to obtain an Admit Slip prior to going to class. Student who are habitually late may be required to make up the time through detentions or after school.

Student Verification Sheet for each child has been sent home. All sheets (even those which have correct information) should be returned to the appropriate classroom teacher. If you have not returned yours, please do so, as this will help us to update our records.

GOING OUT FOR LUNCH

Please inform your child's teacher of regular lunch arrangements for your child. Also, for safety reasons please be advised that a note to the classroom teacher must occur each time there is a change in the routine.. This is especially important for a child who has permission to leave school property during the noon hour who normally stays for lunch. **Students in grade 7 and 8 are allowed to go out for lunch only if a note is provided. ***Standing Notes***** indicating that a child can leave school prop-

erty anytime he/she chooses are **NOT** acceptable. As a school staff, it is important for us to know each time a child leaves our care at noon hour that permission has been given and that parents know the exact whereabouts of their child(ren).

In addition, any students leaving or returning to the school due to appointments must be signed out and in at the office by a parent/guardian. Your co-operation and support of this important supervision/safety initiative is appreciated. Thank you in advance.

KISS & RIDE SAFETY

St. Mark School is proud of its Kiss and Ride Program. In order for it to continue to run smoothly and safely for all our students, everyone needs to follow the same procedure.

- 1) To drop students off at school please drive into the west entrance and along the center lane until you reach the person on duty.
- 2) In order to ensure the safety of your children, please do not let your children out of the car until you are at the front of the lane
- 3) Never drive in the bus lane.
- 4) Never leave your car unattended in the school driveway. It is against the law and you may be ticketed by police who regularly patrol the area.
- 5) If you need to walk your child to the yard or you need to stop into the office, please park in the parking lot. We appreciate your cooperation in following these procedures. **Your children's safety is our main concern.**

CLASS SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Each school year start-up often brings some unexpected changes in terms of enrolment. As a result of families moving out of our school community or registering at our school over the summer, class organization is subject to change within the first few weeks of the school year. Parents will be contacted directly if any change should involve their child(ren). Your support and cooperation is greatly appreciated. Reorganization day for St. Mark School is Friday, September 28, 2007.

THERE WILL BE NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS ON THIS DAY.

MEDICATION

School staff cannot administer medication, including aspirins and Tylenol without a "Request and Consent for Administration of Medication" form, completed and signed by a doctor. A properly labeled container is required, including the instructions and conditions that are to be followed for the administration of the medication for the safety of the child.

Parents of children with **life threatening** medical concerns/allergies are asked to notify Mrs. Dziejcz in the school office and fully complete an Emergency Medication Protocol form each September and return it to the school as soon as possible. All medication is stored in the office area. The only exception to this requirement has to do with any child who, because of life threatening allergies, must carry medication.

We recognize that some parents wish to mark their child's birthday by sending a cake to the class. Because of peanut, milk, egg and other allergies we regret that we will not be able to accept food as a way of celebrating. If you wish to give something to the class such as; pencils, or stickers or a book for the classroom library will be accepted. We remind you that your child's birthday will be celebrated with an announcement over the P.A. We hope you will help us implement this policy.

PEANUT AND OTHER LIFE THREATENING ALLERGIES

There are students who suffer from a life threatening food allergy to nuts, peanuts or anything made from peanut products, and sesame seeds. If these students come into contact with nut products - even to touch a bit that a child leaves on a desk, sink, fountain or hand - these children will go into anaphylactic shock, possibly causing death. **PLEASE DO NOT** send your child with a snack or lunch that contains nuts/nut products and sesame seeds. Your adherence to this request is greatly appreciated.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

"As required by the Education Act and the Ministry of Education, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board annually provides parents with information about cost-effective student accident insurance coverage via student courier. Although enrolment is voluntary, the board encourages parents to take advantage of the inexpensive insurance coverage, **especially if their child/children participate in sports**, excursions/field trips, or, **if parents do not have dental insurance coverage.**

Enrolment is required in writing -- there are two options for enrolment:

- 1) Complete the traditional form and mail it in
- 2) Photocopy the form and fax it to Reliable Life at 1-905-522-7211 or 1-800-463-KIDS (5437).

Parents alone have the right to insure their children. "

PLASP BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

This program runs for school age children up to 12 years of age, at this school.

Before and After School Program –
to 6:00 p.m. Healthy snacks served each day.

Want to know more? See the PLASP staff at this school; Call PLASP at 905-890-1711; visit our website at www.plasp.com

Confirmation Registration for 2007-2008

St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish will be accepting registrations for Confirmations. Applications were sent out. Classes begin the last week of October. They are meant to augment what students receive in the school program. There will be five classes which candidates must attend in order to proceed with receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. There is a registration fee of \$10.00 for the student manual. Please call the Parish to register.

Dates to Remember

- Sept. 4 Welcome back to School!
- Sept. 13 5:30 p.m. Open House BBQ/Curriculum night
- Sept. 20 Gr 7 Terry Fox Walk
Gr 8 Living Arts Centre Field Trip
- Sept. 21 **Assemblies** 9:00 a.m. for JK– 3
10:15 a.m. for Grades 4-8
- Sept. 24 School Council Meeting , 6:30 pm
- Sept. 26 School Photo Day
- Sept. 27 **Terry Fox Walk p.m.**
Gr 7 Living Arts Centre Trip
- Sept 28 PA day **no School for students**
- Oct. 1 Hep B Gr 7
Grs 1 & 2 Chudleigh's Field Trip
- Oct. 2 Confirmation Parent Meeting
7:00 pm at Loyola Church
- Oct. 8 Thanksgiving Day
- Oct. 16 Early Release Day—no p.m. classes.
Students dismissed at 11:30 a.m.
- Oct. 23 Reconciliation/1st Eucharist Parent Meeting
7:00 pm at Loyola Church
- Oct. 26 School Assembly
- Nov. 5 Gr 5 D'Ettore– Silvercreek
- Nov.12 Gr 5/6 Freeman—Silvercreek
- Nov. 7 PA Day **no school for students**
- Nov. 19 PA Day **no school for students**
- Nov. 28 Gr 7 Crawford Lake Field Trip
- Nov. 30 School Assembly

